(b) Conversion cost depends upon the quality of cane, duration of crushing, capacity utilisation, efficiency of the plant and Machinery, etc. and these factors vary from factory to factory. Since detailed data on these factors for each factory is not available, it is not possible to indicate the conversion cost of most efficient sugar mills in India and elsewhere.

(c) The present policy of licensing of sugar mills, including the option of delicensing, is under examination.

PROCUREMENT TARGET OF RICE FOR ANDHRA PRADESH

3337. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the procurement target for rice in Andhra Pradesh for the present Kharif season;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the area under paddy cultivation in Andhra Pradesh has fallen in the Kharif season;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it will affect the public distribution system of rice in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Procurement of rice being dependent on the quantity of paddy processed by millers, no target as such can be fixed.

(b) and (c) As per information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, adverse seasonal conditions, shortage of rainfall in all the major rice procuring districts etc. affected the area under paddy crop.

(d) Allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool for PDS is made on the recommendations of Committee of Secretaries and keeping in view the demands received from State Governments, availability of stocks in the Central Pool, etc. At present Government of Andhra Pradesh is being allotted 1,90,000 tonnes of rice per month.

QUANTUM OF UNFIT BLACK JAWAR IN MAHARASHTRA

3338. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of black jawar in Maharashtra which is unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether it is a fact that good quality jawar became unfit for consumption due to poor storage conditions;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Jawar is being exported to USA;

(d) if so, what is the quantum and rate at which the jawar is being sold; and

(e) whether Government are aware about the use of this jawar which is unfit for human consumption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) As per the information furnished by State Government of Maharashtra, during 1992-93 Kharif year, they procured 4.01 lakh Metric Tonnes of blackened/discloured Jawar which was conforming to PFA Standard at the time of purchase.

(b) Any fodgrain being a living organism is susceptible to deterioration during storage, especially the hybrid jawar which has got a very poor shelve life. However, State Government of Maharashtra has intimated that so far no such reports have been received.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.